Product/Service Description Document: Experimental Marine Weather Web Portal, National Weather Service Headquarters

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product/Service Description - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Experimental National Marine Weather Web Portal provides marine observations, forecasts and short and long-fuse warnings for the entire United States including OCONUS areas. Currently, region-specific information on marine and coastal conditions is collected by, stored and disseminated from a wide range of government and academic institutions and includes a variety of information types and protocols. There is a need for improved, coordinated delivery of relevant information to a broad user community. One of the most efficient ways for coastal ocean observing systems to disseminate marine information to the public is through a partnership with local NOAA/NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), since the targeted audiences already rely on these offices for marine observations and forecast needs. The prototype website that will be used to disseminate the consolidated marine information is titled "National Weather Service Marine Portal V2.0". The project is currently in the process of being transferred into the National Internet Dissemination System (NIDS) for further development.

b. Product Type – Experimental during 2013 and transitioning to operational status during 2014.

c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental website is to provide our customers and partners a simple, standardized web based portal to access current forecasts, consolidated coastal ocean observations and monitoring activities in one website. This website will support NOAA's Mission Goals of Serving Society's Needs for Weather and Water Information and Supporting the Nation's Commerce with Information for Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sound Transportation.

d. Audience - The target audience for this experimental product is the general marine community, including but not limited to: coastal town managers, recreational and commercial mariners, beachgoers, surfers, scuba divers, fishermen, marine and beach safety officials and the general public.

e. Presentation Format – Figure 1 shows the presentation format of the current version of the Marine Web Portal. The user interface uses google map technology and multiple layers on a web map interface to represent marine themes that the target audience needs to make informed boating decisions: Current observations, hazards, tides, and marine forecast. Map overlays, which can be toggled on/off, provide users with additional information and are incorporated in the display for each of the tabs.

f. Feedback Method – A web survey will be used to obtain user feedback. The survey is available at the following link:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/web-survey.php?code=ENMWP

Technical comments for the Experimental Marine Weather Web Portal developer may be addressed to:

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E-mail comments can be sent to David.Soroka@noaa.gov

The comment period runs from February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014.

Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – See Figure 1 for description of the format and web user interface.

b. Availability - The website will run 24 hours per day and be monitored by NWS staff. The website will be made available to all WFO's in the coverage region.

c. Additional Information –

1) National Weather Service Instruction (NWSI) 10-506, Digital Data Products/Services Specification provides detailed information on both experimental and operational elements in NDFD.

Figure 1 - Marine Web Portal Interface